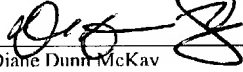


1625

Attorney Docket No. 4296-144 US

The undersigned certifies that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as prepaid first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 4, 2004.


Diane Dunn McKay

RECEIVED
APR 07 2004
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
HIRAO et al.

Serial No. 09/919,024

Filed: July 31, 2001

Title: METHOD FOR STARTING UP
REACTOR

Group Art Unit: 1625

Examiner: OH, Taylor Victor

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
FEB 12 2004
TECH CENTER 1600/2900


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend this application as follows: